

What's Blooming at Pinnacles National Park?

May 2, 2017



Chick Lupine

(*Lupinus microcarpus*) - Fabaceae

Chick lupine is a small and somewhat bushy annual with white flowers. The flowering stem often appears zig-zagged in the middle, and the fruit is a bean pod. It grows along roads, trails, and in open sandy areas.



Whispering Bells

(*Emmenanthe penduliflora*) - Boraginaceae

This species has small, creamy-yellow flowers that hang like bells. It prefers chaparral habitat and rocky or sandy soils. Keep an eye out along the High Peaks and Condor Gulch trails.



Scarlet Bugler

(*Penstemon centranthifolius*) - Plantaginaceae

Scarlet bugler has tubular red flowers that attract pollinators. The genus *Penstemon* is the largest genus of flowering plants endemic to North America, meaning they grow nowhere else in the world.



Mariposa Lily

(*Liliaceae venustus*) - Liliaceae

This beautiful white lily has a pink spot in the center of each petal. The flower often closes at night and opens again during the day. It grows in open, rocky soils throughout the park, especially along the Condor Gulch and High Peaks trails.



Wooly Bluecurls

(*Trichostema lanatum*) - Lamiaceae

True to its name, woolly blue curls has long inflorescences of purple-blue flowers that are covered with dense hairs. The unique smell of the leaves is often described differently by each person you ask, ranging from bubblegum to pine.

Other Plants Blooming in the Park

Common Name	Scientific Name	Family
Bishop's lotus	<i>Acmispon strigosus</i>	Fabaceae
Bitter root	<i>Lewisia rediviva</i>	Montiaceae
Black sage	<i>Salvia melliferae</i>	Lamiaceae
Blue dicks	<i>Dichelostemma capitatum ssp. capitatum</i>	Themidaceae
Blue fiesta flower	<i>Pholistoma auritum var. auritum</i>	Boraginaceae
Blue witch	<i>Solanum umbelliferum</i>	Solanaceae
Bush poppy	<i>Dendromecon rigida</i>	Papaveraceae
California blackberry	<i>Rubus ursinus</i>	Rosaceae
California figwort	<i>Scrophularia californica</i>	Scrophulariaceae
California hedge nettle	<i>Stachys bullata</i>	Lamiaceae
California man-root	<i>Marah fabacea</i>	Cucurbitaceae
Chia	<i>Salvia columbariae</i>	Lamiaceae
Chick lupine	<i>Lupinus microcarpus</i>	Fabaceae
Chinese houses	<i>Collinsia heterophylla</i>	Plantaginaceae
Common large monkeyflower	<i>Mimulus guttatus</i>	Phrymaceae
Common yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Asteraceae
Cream cups	<i>Platystemon californicus</i>	Papaveraceae
Crinkled onion	<i>Allium crispum</i>	Alliaceae
Dannie's skullcap	<i>Scutellaria tuberosa</i>	Lamiaceae
Douglas' spineflower	<i>Chorizanthe douglasii</i>	Polygonaceae
Dudleya	<i>Dudleya spp.</i>	Crassulaceae
Elegant clarkia	<i>Clarkia unguiculata</i>	Onagraceae
Everlasting	<i>Pseudognaphalium spp.</i>	Asteraceae
Fiddleneck	<i>Amsinckia spp.</i>	Boraginaceae
Fremont's monkeyflower	<i>Mimulus fremontii</i>	Phrymaceae
Fremont's star lily	<i>Toxicoscordion fremontii</i>	Melanthiaceae
Globe gilia	<i>Gilia capitata ssp. staminea</i>	Polemoniaceae
Golden yarrow	<i>Eriophyllum confertiflorum</i>	Asteraceae
Gray mule's ears	<i>Wyethia helenioides</i>	Asteraceae
Jewelflower	<i>Streptanthus glandulosus ssp. glandulosus</i>	Brassicaceae
Johnny jump-ups	<i>Viola pedunculata</i>	Violaceae
Lace parsnip	<i>Lomatium dasycarpum ssp. dasycarpum</i>	Apiaceae
Larkspur	<i>Delphinium spp.</i>	Ranunculaceae
Mariposa lily	<i>Calochortus venustus</i>	Liliaceae
Narrow-leaved queen poppy	<i>Hesperomecon linearis</i>	Papaveraceae
Pacific sanicle	<i>Sanicula crassicaulis</i>	Apiaceae
Pink spineflower	<i>Chorizanthe membranacea</i>	Polygonaceae
Pipestems	<i>Clematis lasiantha</i>	Ranunculaceae
Pretty faces	<i>Tritileia lugens</i>	Themidaceae
Purple owl's clover	<i>Castilleja exserta spp. exserta</i>	Orobanchaceae
Scarlet bugler	<i>Penstemon centranthifolius</i>	Plantaginaceae
Slender-flowered gilia	<i>Gilia tenuiflora ssp. tenuiflora</i>	Polemoniaceae
Sticky monkeyflower	<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	Phrymaceae

Other Plants Blooming in the Park

Stonecrop	<i>Sedum spathulifolium</i>	Crassulaceae
Tomcat clover	<i>Trifolium wildenovii</i>	Fabaceae
Venus thistle	<i>Cirsium occidentale var. venustum</i>	Asteraceae
Western wallflower	<i>Erysimum capitatum var. capitatum</i>	Brassicaceae
Whispering bells	<i>Emmenanthe penduliflora</i>	Boraginaceae
White fiesta flower	<i>Pholistoma membranaceum</i>	Boraginaceae
White plectritis	<i>Plectritis macrocera</i>	Valerianaceae
Wild heliotrope	<i>Phacelia distans</i>	Boraginaceae
Wind poppy	<i>Papaver heterophyllum</i>	Papaveraceae
Wine-cup Clarkia	<i>Clarkia purpurea ssp. quadrivulnera</i>	Onagraceae
Witlow grass	<i>Draba verna</i>	Brassicaceae
Woodland star	<i>Lithophragma affine</i>	Saxifragaceae
Woolly paintbrush	<i>Castilleja foliolosa</i>	Orobanchaceae
Wooly bluecurls	<i>Trichostema lanatum</i>	Lamiaceae
Yellow pincushion	<i>Chaenactis glabriuscula</i>	Asteraceae

Resources for Identifying Plants

Pinnacles National Park Website: <http://www.nps.gov/pinn/learn/nature/plants.htm>

Check the right side of the page for links to tree and wildflower photo galleries, the digital herbarium, and the park plant checklist.

CalFlora: <http://www.calflora.org>

Search for plants to find distribution maps, plant characteristics, blooming period, and more.

CalPhotos: <http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/flora/>

A great database of photos to help ID what you're seeing in the field.

iNaturalist: <http://www.inaturalist.org/>

This site is a social media platform for sharing natural history observations. You can make your own records, help others with identification, and see what species are in your area. There are smartphone apps available for iOS and Android.

Species nomenclature based on Jepson 2012

Send your own observations to michael_shelley@nps.gov